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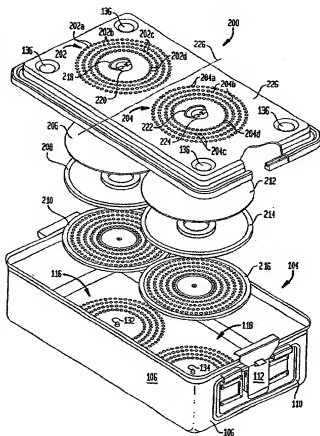
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(54) Title: FILTERED GAS PLASMA STERILIZATION CONTAINER WITH IMPROVED CIRCULATION



(57) Abstract: A metal sterilization container (10) comprises a pan (12) forming the bottom of the container holding a tray (14), with a cover (16) forming the top of the container, and a filter element (20). The filter (20) covers an opening in the cover (16) so that the inside of the container (10), formed when the cover is removably sealed to the pan (12), can communicate with the atmosphere surrounding the sealed container allowing gas plasma to enter and exit the container passing through the filter (20). Items to be sterilized are placed on the tray (14) and the cover (16) is attached and sealed to the pan (12). The sealed container is then placed in a gas plasma environment. The container is preferably made of aluminum with an anodic coating of 0.5 mils (0.0005 inches) or less with the pan (12) and cover (16) electrically insulated from one another via the coating.

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